

May 9, 2019

The May 9, 2019 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Paul Tarlowe, held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1976, followed by a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Present were Paul Tarlowe, Robert Jewell, Marin Martin, Glenn Todd, Dawn Smith and Ruth Pante.

Minutes

Mr. Todd MOVED to accept and approve the minutes of the April 11, 2019 meeting, seconded by Mr. Jewell; all in favor with one abstention.

Mail

Septic approval is sought at 130 Karrsville Road; Mr. Jewell is familiar with the site and he sees it as a challenging lot.

Committee Reports

Mason Bess: It was suggested that if the ANJEC grant application is not approved, a workshop can still be conducted by charging a nominal fee for interested participants; however, this was decided against as we cannot charge for events. Approval of the grant would eliminate the need to charge. The Township Committee approved the Resolution and the application for the ANJEC grant one hour before the submission deadline. No word has been received but notice of the grant awards is expected May 15. A meeting was held with biologist Rob Somes who is the state's lead pollinator biologist; Mr. Tarlowe will notify Mr. Somes of the grant award progress.

Ms. Smith reminded that a donation must be optional. Past turn-out showed people are interested in such events but attendance is not predictable; there is much work to be done if no funding is available. One possibility is a presentation at a trail hike at Cafferata Park. If the grant application is not approved, there is time to coordinate such an event. With a \$500 grant, we could supply 20 boxes.

Cafferata Park: One nesting box holds five eggs; three with nesting material seem to be empty but two families are checking regularly.

Environmental Issues

Mr. Tarlowe presented a poster he drafted for the LED light bulb distribution that can be shared at the municipal building where free LED bulbs are available.

Mr. Tarlowe went to the community garden in Washington and was amazed at the great setup; he has purchased a plot. Tools and watering cans with available water are on site; some social events are planned.

Anderson Church remains on the real estate market. It is zoned residential, but there may be a deed restriction.

Someone brought a complaint to the state about Municipal Charities in Morris County churches with active parishes. Churches are off the table at this time, money cannot be used for repairs.

Mr. Jewell reported attending the Hope Green Fair which was well attended; flyers were shared. One drawback was the parking.

Well Sweep Herb Farm is hosting its 50th anniversary celebration on June 1 where crafts and workshop will be offered.

The Washington Borough farmers market will again be held on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Also, Lafayette Village is again opening a farmers market.

Mr. Jewell reported the Columbia Too site has received approval for use of the salvage yard but a site plan review is necessary. There exists a 7,000 square ft. building; about 24 acres to be used, but the owners are pushing for 50 acres. One stormwater management consideration is a 50-acre lot. Elevations include a 100 ft. drop, meaning much useful area could be lost. Totally wrecked cars will be sold; all shopping will be conducted online, all vehicles will be drained, stored outside with a wrap, trailered in and out. The Land Use Board is offering conditional approval, 24 acres approved.

In White Township, a developer from the Lehigh area is proposing 6 million square foot distribution warehousing, four buildings on the former Ingersol Rand property. This is the biggest construction site in the US.

Ms. Smith MOVED to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Panté, Clerk

**Next meeting date:
June 13, 2019**